

PROVIDING THAT THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR SHALL INVESTIGATE AND REPORT TO THE CONGRESS AS TO THE ADVISABILITY OF ESTABLISHING FORT CLATSOP, OREG., AS A NATIONAL MONUMENT

MAY 29, 1956.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union and ordered to be printed

Mr. ENGLE, from the Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs, submitted the following

REPORT

[To accompany S. 2498]

The Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs, to whom was referred the bill (S. 2498) to provide that the Secretary of the Interior shall investigate and report to the Congress as to the advisability of establishing Fort Clatsop, Oreg., as a national monument, having considered the same, report favorably thereon without amendment and recommend that the bill do pass.

PURPOSE

If enacted, S. 2498 would direct the Secretary of the Interior to make a complete investigation of the advisability of establishing Fort Clatsop, Oreg., as a national monument. Fort Clatsop, located at the mouth of the Columbia River, is reported to be the site on which the Lewis and Clark expedition erected its headquarters on reaching the Pacific coast.

No appropriation of Federal funds is required by this legislation.

EXPLANATION OF THE BILL

The Department of the Interior has the authority under the Historic Sites, Buildings, and Antiquities Act of August 21, 1935 (49 Stat. 666; 16 U. S. C. 461-467), to conduct the investigation called for in the measure. S. 2498 would merely serve as a directive to the Secretary of the Interior to undertake the investigation specified therein.

During a hearing on S. 2498 a witness from the National Park Service informed this committee that the Department of the Interior had no objection to the enactment of the measure.

HISTORY OF FORT CLATSOP, OREG.

A history of Fort Clatsop, as presented in the report of the Senate Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs, is set forth following:

Fort Clatsop is the site at which Lewis and Clark erected the first habitation ever built by Americans on our Pacific coast. This site, comprising approximately 6 acres of land, is on the Lewis and Clark River, near the mouth of the Columbia River, and is owned by the Oregon Historical Society which was organized in 1898. The society secured these lands by purchase many years ago as this was the terminal point of one of the great explorations in American history. Over 150 years ago the Lewis and Clark expedition spent several months at this site, using the fort as its headquarters.

The acreage encompasses ground which has been proved in every sense by Government historians and archeologists as the actual site of historic Fort Clatsop (1804-5). Remains of the fort have been formally excavated by archeologists associated with the National Park Service (1950) according to information received by the committee from the Oregon Historical Society. During the last year, the original fort was very faithfully reproduced on the grounds adjacent to the site of the original structure. The Oregon Historical Society has invested approximately \$50,000 in the site and it is in excellent operating condition.

AGENCY REPORT

The favorable report of the Bureau of the Budget, as submitted to the Senate Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs, is set forth following:

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT,
BUREAU OF THE BUDGET,
Washington, D. C., March 22, 1956.

Hon. JAMES E. MURRAY,
*Chairman, Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs,
United States Senate, Washington, D. C.*

MY DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: This is in reply to your request for the views of the Bureau of the Budget on S. 2498, a bill to provide that the Secretary of the Interior shall investigate and report to the Congress as to the advisability of establishing Fort Clatsop, Oreg., as a national monument.

The Department of the Interior informs us that the proposed investigation can be undertaken without any additional appropriations for the purpose being necessary.

You are advised that the Bureau of the Budget would have no objection to enactment of S. 2498.

Sincerely yours,

ROBERT E. MERRIAM,
Assistant to the Director.

The Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs recommends the enactment of S. 2498.